Recommendations of Institution of Engineers on Electricity Acts

1201. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received the recommendations from the Institution of Engineers that existing Acts are required to be amended suitably to incorporate the positive proposals in the draft Electricity Bill, 2000 and drop the idea of enacting a fresh electricity legislation after scrapping the three existing Acts, of 1910, 1948, and 1998 which are serving the country well;

(b) if so, the details of recommendations made by them; and

(c) Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) While giving detailed comments and recommendations on the proposed Electricity Bill, 2000, the Institute of Engineers have highlighted the need for reforming the present system "where SEBs are providers, regulators and utility itself". It has been *inter alia* suggested that the present set up may be split up on independent (but in a co-ordinated manner) functional basis so as to be totally accountable and transparent in its functioning. Unless the problem of theft is solved urgently, the reforms only will not bring out the desired results. The Institute has, however, favoured suitable amendments in the existing laws rather than the enactment of a new comprehensive legislation to replace the existing laws. The comments of the Institute of Engineers have been duly considered.

Small hydro-power projects

†1202. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of energy being generated and its demand in the country at present;

(b) whether small hydro power projects can prove effective in meeting the demand and supply;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.